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## Spike-LR Anti-Tank Guided Missiles

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### Why in News

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The India Army is set to place a repeat order for **Spike-LR (Long Range) Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM)** from Israel as part of emergency procurement.

The decision comes in the backdrop of **continuing tensions on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.**

### Key Points

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- Last year, the Army procured 12 launchers and around 250 missiles from Israel under the **new emergency financial powers** sanctioned by the Defence Ministry after the **Balakot airstrike.**
- **Emergency Financial Powers:**
  - Under these, armed forces have been given a **free hand to procure equipment worth up to Rs. 300 crore** on a priority basis with deliveries stipulated to be **completed in three months** but **extendable up to six months.**
  - Entirely new systems not in use were also allowed to be procured under the new powers.

- **Spike-LR:**



- These are the **4<sup>th</sup> generation Anti-Tank Missiles** developed and manufactured by the **Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, Israel**.
- It is a portable **anti-armour weapon system** with a **range of up to 4 km**, which can be operated in **fire-and-forget mode** and in the **fire, observe and update mode** using the fibre-optic data link.
- These are **used by** infantry soldiers, special rapid reaction forces, ground forces and helicopter aircrew.
- It can work in **non-line-of-sight (NLOS)** mode allowing the gunner to operate from a covered position.
- The army recently decided to place a repeat order for 72,400 **Sig 716 assault rifles**

from the **USA** as well.



- They will replace the existing **Indian Small Arms System (Insas) rifles** manufactured locally by the **Ordnance Factories Board**.
- They will be used by the troops in the **counter-terrorism operations and frontline duties on the Line of Control (LoC)**.
- India acquired the rifles under the **fast-track procurement (FTP) programme**.
- The remaining forces would be provided with the **AK-203 rifles**, which are to be produced **jointly by India and Russia at Amethi ordnance factory**.

- The Army has a much larger requirement for ATGMs which will be met through **indigenous Man-Portable ATGM** under development by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation** (DRDO).

**Source: TH**